

The West Mine is by far the biggest mine on Alderley Edge, the main workings being carried out at the same time as those at Wood Mine, 1857 - 1877, by the Alderley Edge Mining Company. It is probable that this area was mined previous to these dates as possible evidence of fire setting was found whilst excavating the opencast during 1858.

During the main working period from 1857 to 1877, West Mine was probably known as the Western Mine and was worked in two sections divided by a fault or Great Slide. Ore was extracted by a railway hauled from the surface using a rope. Ventilation was achieved by the use of two air shafts at the middle and far end of the mine.

After the voluntary liquidation of the Alderley Edge Mining company in 1878 the mine had various spells of activity. In April 1909 rumours abounded that the mine was about to be opened again, in a newspaper article of July 1909 it was reported that samples of ore taken from the mine had proved to be "highly satisfactory". In February 1911 it was reported that work had commenced to re-open the mine but nothing much came of it and by 1913 the mine was closed again.

In January of 1914 a Mr A Gibb of London was reported to have taken over the copper mines from Lord Stanley, in 1915 he prosecuted two youths for damaging a gate at the copper mines, each was fined five shillings (25p). By the end of 1916 the mine was closed again when Mr Gibb took up an army commission.